

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PREMIER CHIANG'S SEMI-ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORT

REF: TAIPEI 0732 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PREMIER CHIANG PRESENTED HIS SEMI-ANNUAL "ORAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT" TO THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN ON FEBRUARY 21, 1975 EMPHASIZING THE THEME OF SELF RELIANCE AMIDST DIFFICULTIES WHICH LIE AHEAD IN 1975 FOR TAIWAN. REPORT EXPANDS ON LITTLE-NOTICED REMARK FROM PREMIER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE SPEECH AND FROM SOME RECENT PRESS COMMENTARIES SUGGESTING THAT A GRADUAL PROCESS OF PREPARING PUBLIC FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN US CHINA POLICY MAY BE UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO DELIVERED HIS SEMI-ANNUAL "ORAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT" TO THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN ON FEBRUARY 21, 1975. (JUST PRIOR TO DELIVERY GIO HANDED OUT CHINESE AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE REPORT WHICH AS USUAL VERY CONSIDERABLY FROM THE PREMIER'S ORAL PRESENTATA-
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TION. WE ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL VERSIONS WILL APPEAR BOTH

IN THE PRESS AND WHEN GIO PUTS OUT A SUPPLEMENT BASED ON THE PREMIER'S ORAL DELIVERY.) BULK OF REPORT CONTAINS MOST OF THE EXPECTED ELEMENTS: ANTI-PRC COMMENTARY, LENGTHY AND RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (INCLUDING UNEMPLOYMENT), GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PLANNED CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, CONCERN FOR PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND LIST OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO AID THE PEOPLE.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE SPECIFIC COMMENTARY ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, BUT MOST STRIKING POINT WAS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON UNDEFINED "DIFFICULTIES" WHICH LIE AHEAD AND THEME OF SELF RELIANCE: "...THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF MOST OF OUR PEOPLE IS THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY...WE ALONE MUST SAFEGUARD AND CONTROL OUR NATIONAL DESTINY...WE SHALL COURAGEOUSLY FACE UP TO REALITY, TAKE A FIRM STAND AND ADVANCE CONSISTENTLY IN MEETING ANY CHALLENGE...OUR NATIONAL SPIRIT IS MANIFEST IN THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL FINDING THAT THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE PLACE THE NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE THEIR OWN WELFARE...ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOW CONFRONTED BY STRAITENED CIRCUMSTANCES, THE RENEWED DEMONSTRATION OF THIS SINGLE-HEARTEDNESS AND UNITED POWER OF WILL AND MORALE PROVIDES US WITH A POWERFUL RELIANCE FOR VICTORY...WE ARE WHOLLY AWARE THAT DOMESTIC UNITY AND STABILITY ARE MAINSTAYS IN RESISTING EXTERNAL BLOWS."

4. ABOVE QUOTES CALL TO MIND PREMIER'S OTHERWISE ROUTINE NEW YEAR'S EVE REMARKS ON FEBRUARY 11 IN WHICH HE SAID, "WE MAY EVEN SAY DURING THE YEAR TO COME OUR COUNTRY MAY SUFFER THE BIGGEST SETBACK AND MOST DIFFICULTIES EVER. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT SINCE THE PEOPLE ARE TRULY AND SINCERELY COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT...WE CAN TAKE ANY SETBACK AND OVERCOME ANY DIFFICULTY."

5. IN BOTH WRITTEN AND ORAL VERSIONS OF REPORT HE REFERRED TO GROC'S CRUCIAL POSITION IN THE "TURMOIL" CREATED BY THE "US/USSR/PRC STRUGGLE" AND ADDED IN THE ORAL VERSION THAT TAIWAN MUST SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT. HE DID NOT ELABORATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THIS POINT.

6. REPORT REFERRED FREQUENTLY TO A GIO PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY (REFTEL, PURPOSE OF WHICH, HE POINTED OUT, WAS TO DETERMINE THE PEOPLE'S VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IDENTIFY MATTERS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THEM. MANY OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THUS KEYED TO THE PREMIER'S (OR GIO'S) ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY.

7. EMBASSY BELIEVES REMARKS FROM NEW YEAR'S EVE
SPEECH AND ORAL REPORT AS WELL AS LIMITED
DISCUSSION IN PRESS OF US-PRC RELATIONS
MAY HERALD A GROUPE EFFORT TO PREPARE THE PEOPLE FOR
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN US CHINA POLICY. A FULLER RE-
PORT AND ANALYSIS OF THIS QUESTION IS UNDER PREPARATION.

8. DURING ORAL PRESENTATION PREMIER -- PERHAPS NOT
SURPRISINGLY -- RECEIVED ONE OF BIGGEST ROUNDS OF
APPLAUSE FROM AGING MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE YUAN WHEN
HE ANNOUNCED THAT LIFE EXPECTANCY ON TAIWAN HAD INCREASED.
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